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*Disinfection of mails in Oklahoma on account of smallpox.*WASHINGTON, D. C., *January 10, 1900.*

SIR: In connection with my telephone message of this morning, I beg to state that yesterday a telegram was received by the honorable the Postmaster-General, reading as follows:

Order mail from Newkirk and Blackwell, Okla., disinfected at once. Smallpox generally epidemic.

BUXTON,  
*Superintendent of Health, Oklahoma.*

The foregoing telegram was repeated to Mr. S. M. Gaines, superintendent Railway Mail Service, Fort Worth, Tex., with instructions to take any necessary action.

I am this morning in receipt of a wire from Superintendent Gaines reading as follows:

Postmaster, Newkirk, Okla., wires can not obtain chemicals for fumigation. Local health board has no funds. Shall expense for disinfection be insured as in similar cases?

In accordance with permission granted by you in answer to my telephonic request, I have notified Superintendent Gaines that your branch of the Service will assume payment for fumigation at Newkirk, Okla.

Mr. Gaines, as you will have noted, makes no mention of the situation at Blackwell. Our superintendents all have very thorough instructions as to the methods to be pursued, especially at smaller towns, where it is impossible to use the formaldehyd method. This involves simply the use of the sulphur boxes, and it is expected that the expense in this particular case will be merely nominal.

In this connection, I beg to state that this office has received information that smallpox is epidemic in a great many smaller towns, as well as in the country districts of Oklahoma, and it is probable that there will be further calls of this character. You are, however, doubtless fully advised as to the situation.

Respectfully,

JOHN W. HOLLYDAY,  
*Acting General Superintendent.*

FORT WORTH, TEX., *January 8, 1900.*

SIR: In reply to your telegram of even date, advising that smallpox was generally epidemic at Newkirk and Blackwell, Okla., and instructing to take necessary action, I have the honor to advise that instructions issued by the Marine-Hospital Service have been forwarded to each postmaster, directing him to see that the mail is disinfected under the supervision of the local or Territorial boards of health. These instructions are forwarded to postmasters as rapidly as it is learned that smallpox is epidemic in any vicinity.

Respectfully,

S. M. GAINES,  
*Superintendent.*

Hon. JAMES E. WHITE,  
*General Superintendent, Railway Mail Service, Washington, D. C.*

*Smallpox in Columbia and Mount Pleasant, Tenn.*MOBILE, ALA., *January 6, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that, in obedience to telegraphic orders, Surgeon-General's office, January 2, 1900, "to proceed to Columbia, Tenn., and decide disputed diagnosis of smallpox," I arrived in Columbia on the night of the 3d, and was met at depot by the city